

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8
INCIDENT NO. 2002-009
DATE: July 11, 2002 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe Summer Storms - Severe thunderstorms have produced heavy rain, gusty winds and hail.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: As documented previously, two injuries have been reported to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) anticipates the recent rain events on July 9-10 will cause several points along the Red River to approach major flood stage. In Traill County, an overland flood warning remains in effect; minor flooding caused by the Goose River is expected to continue. The Red River at East Grand Forks is expected to crest at 43.1 feet July 14; major flood stage is 46 feet. Current levels measure 30.0 feet. At Oslo, the predicted crest level on July 15 will reach 36.3 feet, just above the major flood stage of 36.0 feet. Levels are currently at 25.2 feet. On July 18, the river at Drayton is expected to reach 39.5 feet, just below the major flood stage of 40.0 feet. Levels now measure 23.4 feet. At Pembina on July 18, anticipated levels will reach 46.1 feet, the major flood stage is 52.0 feet.

Walsh County on July 9-10, received up to two inches of rain; some ponding did occur. County officials are concerned that rising Red River levels resulting from heavy downstream precipitation will reach the predicted crest of 36.3 feet at Oslo. At that level, Walsh County Emergency Management personnel indicate that east of U.S. Interstate 29, significant flooding would impact farmsteads, roadways, and agricultural land.

In the Fargo/West Fargo area just over two inches of rain fell on July 10. Street flooding occurred causing interrupted traffic flow and some vehicle damage. Sewer lift stations were working to capacity.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Flash Situation Report indicated thunderstorms accompanied by high winds dropped 2-3.5 inches of rain throughout the eastern half of Sargent County. The heaviest wind damage occurred in Forman, Rutland, south of Milnor, and east of Gwinner. Twelve thousand acres of cropland, distributed among 90 farms, were affected and the loss ranged from 10 to 20 percent. One machine shed was damaged.

According to a USDA Flash Situation Report, Richland County received approximately four inches of rain, up to golf ball size hail, and winds between 40-50 miles per hour. Twelve farms were affected and 100 percent of the 6,000 acres of cropland was destroyed.

A USDA Flash Situation Report for LaMoure County indicated heavy rain, high winds, and hail damaged between 75 and 100 farm dwellings and service buildings; the same number of other farm structures were also damaged. Between 50 and 75 farms were affected and 50 percent of the affected 76,000 crop acres was considered a loss.

On July 10, Devils Lake measured 1447.49 feet, and Stump Lake was at 1,413.53 feet.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Walsh County officials have sandbags available for residents and are continuing to close roads as conditions warrant. Officials are meeting to determine the type and amount of flood fighting activity that will be required.

Grand Forks City officials and NWS personnel met at 8:00 a.m. on July 11 to discuss flood protection measures required to mitigate the predicted Red River crest between 43 and 45 feet on July 13. The City of Grand Forks will use clay to raise four portions of the levy to 47 feet. Grand Forks County officials are supplying and delivering sandbags to 10 rural homeowners in the southeast portion of the county.

In an effort to reduce workloads on lift stations, officials from Fargo and West Fargo requested residents to restrict water use and to make sure sump pumps released water outside the home.

In response to NWS forecasts, Drayton City officials indicated Highway 66 is closed when the Red River reaches 37.6 feet. Storm sewers are pumped and plugged at levels above 38 feet. Diking occurs at stages between 40 and 41 feet.

When the Red River reaches 41 feet, Pembina City officials begin closing several gatewalls and as water rise, continue the process until the water reaches 48 feet, which signals the last closure. The Pembina River Bridge is closed at 42 feet, road closures occur at 48 feet, and at 54 feet sandbagging efforts are required.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No assistance is requested at this time.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Utility crews repaired damaged infrastructure.

9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local and private entity emergency operations plans and procedures have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director